



SUMMARY OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended). An image processing apparatus provided with a capability of carrying out variable magnification of image data, comprising:

a single first-in, first-out memory for carrying out write/read processing of image data;

an enlarging variable magnification unit for carrying out variable-magnification processing following write processing and read processing of image data to and from the first-in, first-out memory during image enlargement; and

a reducing variable magnification unit for writing image data to the first-in, first-out memory after variable-magnification is carried out during image reduction,

wherein variable magnification processing in a scan direction is carried out independently of variable magnification processing in a scan direction and a subeross-scan direction, and

wherein a write signal for the first-in, first-out memory is started earlier than a read signal therefor during enlargement, and the read signal for the first-in, first-out memory is started earlier than the write signal therefor during reduction.

Claims 2-8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended). An image processing apparatus provided with a capability of carrying out variable magnification of image data, comprising:

a line memory for storing one line worth of image data;

a plurality of image forming means;

a plurality of output lines for connecting the line memory and the plurality of image forming means;

a plurality of switching means for turning the plurality of output lines on or off individually; and

a variable-magnification processing means for increasing and decreasing the number of times to turn on the switching means in correspondence to magnification ratio, wherein variable magnification processing in is carried out independently in a

scan direction is carried out independently of variable magnification processing in and
a subeross-scan direction, and

wherein the line memory output is connected in parallel to the plurality of
image forming means.

Claim 10 (new). An image processing apparatus provided with a capability of carrying out variable magnification of image data, comprising:

a single first-in, first-out memory for carrying out write/read processing of image data;

an enlarging variable magnification unit for carrying out variable-magnification processing following write processing and read processing of image data to and from the first-in, first-out memory during image enlargement; and

a reducing variable magnification unit for writing image data to the first-in, first-out memory after variable-magnification is carried out during image reduction,

wherein variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction is carried out independently of variable magnification processing in the a scan direction.

Claim 11 (new). An image processing apparatus provided with a capability of carrying out variable magnification of image data, comprising:

a line memory for storing one line worth of image data;

a plurality of image forming means;

a plurality of output lines for connecting the line memory and the plurality of image forming means;

a plurality of switching means for turning the plurality of output lines on or off individually; and

a variable-magnification processing means for increasing and decreasing the number of times to turn on the switching means in correspondence to magnification ratio, wherein variable magnification processing in a sub-scan direction is carried out independently of variable magnification processing in a scan direction.